

File: COMMO
Doc.: 22

TRANSLATION FROM LATVIAN NEWSPAPER "LATVIJA" (IN GERMANY)
(July 30th.1955 Nr.28, front page.)

A NEW ESCAPEE FROM LATVIA- (HEC 13/10)

A Poor Escapee or a Russian sent Spy?

LEAFLETS IN LATVIA.

Stockholm/AE./.- In these days Gotland was reached by a young Latvian man, who crossed the Baltic Sea in a small boat. The name of the escapee is not known yet. Respective Swedish Authorities have interned the lad and do not disclose anything about this person.

Judging by some circumstances of escape, there is a possibility that the escapee could be a Soviet sent agent with a special task. Although, untill the end of the investigation the contrary might be proved.

As it is well known, only 21 persons have succeeded to escape from Baltic States in the postwar years, 8 of them from Latvia. However from Russia itself 989 persons have reached the the freedom in the last 6 months of 1954. From Bulgaria - 141 persons, from Czechoslovakia - 1231, from Hungary - 721, from Poland - 842, from Roumania - 245, to say nothing about the hundreds of thousands of escapees from Eastern Germany.

These are figures which show the fact in what oppression the

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Soviet rulers keep their victims at the shores of the Baltic Sea.

During the Geneva Conference special leaflets reached Latvia and the other Baltic States, to remind the Latvians in their homeland that they are not abandoned. Similar action took place already before to strengthen the moral. Of course, the reading of leaflets is as dangerous as listening to the Voice of America broadcasts.

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P.S. /AE/ probably means Andrejs Eglitis, who is the author of this article.

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In the same newspaper "LATVIJA" on August 6th, 1955 (page 2) is an article "MISTERIOUS ESCAPEE FROM LATVIA" that quotes the newspaper "LAIKS" (July 27th, 1955) article with the same title. (See File COMMO.Doc.22)

Only the lead-in is different - It states that the escapee is put ashore in Gotland Sweden. It further states that as far as it is known the Latvian escapee whom we mentioned before should not be considered as a communist agent. He is still isolated by Swedish authorities, which might ~~XXXXXX~~ have reasonable motives, remembering the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ huge uproar which aroused the press and public in the previous years

regarding Latvians who escaped from Soviet Latvia.

At the end of the article it states: However the usual time of quarantine has expired, the escapee is still in the hands of Swedish authorities. Either they should grant him the rights of asylum, or if the authorities should consider him as undesirable, they should expell him and return him to Latvia.

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